J. Stromberg

CONFIDENTIAL
Not for publication

route de Ferney 150
1211 Geneva 20

MINUTES

OF THE

MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

OF THE

WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

4-8 February, 1985

Meeting held at
John Knox Centre
Geneva, Switzerland

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. OPENING ACTIONS 1

A. Introduction and worship 1
B. Roll call 1
C. Minutes 1
D. Adoption of agenda and timetable 1

2. REPORT OF THE GENERAL SECRETARY 1

3. DISCUSSION WITH THE GENERAL SECRETARY 5

4. REPORTS ON PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES SINCE CENTRAL COMMITTEE 1984 8

A. Unit I 8
B. Unit II 9
C. Unit III 11
D. General Secretariat 12
E. Theological diversity and coherence 13
F. Idologies 14
G. The role of the WCC in international affairs 15
H. The role of religion in conflicts 15
I. World conferences 15

5. PUBLIC ISSUES 17

A. Southern Africa 17
B. Sudan 17
C. Sri Lanka 17
D. Middle East 17
E. New Caledonia 18
F. Events in 1985 18
G. Human Rights 19

6. APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP 19

7. ROMAN CATHOLIC RELATIONSHIPS 19

8. CENTRAL COMMITTEE 1985 21

9. TRANSLATION OF CENTRAL COMMITTEE MINUTES 22

10. REPORT OF THE NOMINATIONS SUB-COMMITTEE 23

A. Membership of Commissions and Working Groups 23
B. Appointment of new Regional Resource Sharing Groups in Africa and Latin America 24

11. REPORT OF THE FINANCE SUB-COMMITTEE 24

12. DECISION-MAKING ON PRIORITIES AND RESOURCES 30

13. FUTURE MEETINGS 30

14. CLOSING ACTIONS 31

APPENDICES

I. Attendance 32

II. Membership of Sub-committees 34

III. Letter to the Evangelical Church in New Caledonia . 35

IV. Membership of Regional Resource Sharing Groups in Africa, Europe and Latin America 36

WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Geneva, Switzerland
4-8 February 1985

1. OPENING ACTIONS

A. Introduction and worship

The opening service of worship, led by the Officers, was held in the chapel of the Ecumenical Centre. The preacher was the Moderator and during the service the Rev. Dr Emilio Castro was formally installed as General Secretary of the World Council of Churches. Presentations were made to Dr Castro by the Officers of Central Committee, the National Protestant Church of Geneva and the WCC staff.

Worship on subsequent mornings was led by Bishop Hempel, Archbishop Athanasios, Dr Barrow and Dr Tolen.

The meeting convened at 10.30 a.m. on Monday, 4 February, at the John Knox Centre.

B. Roll call

The General Secretary called the roll of those attending. He congratulated Mr Stalsett on his election as General Secretary of the Lutheran World Federation. He noted that Fr Borovoy would shortly be returning to Moscow to take up the Vice-chairmanship of the Department of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Orthodox Church, and that Fr Tsetsis was attending both as representative of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and as acting Director of CICARWS.

C. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held in Geneva, 5-7 July 1984, having been previously circulated, were confirmed.

D. Adoption of agenda and timetable

The General Secretary presented the agenda, which was adopted. A number of changes in the proposed timetable were agreed.

2. REPORT OF THE GENERAL SECRETARY

The General Secretary began by paying tribute to a number of ecumenical leaders who had died since the last meeting: Bishop Stephen Neill, a missionary, a member of the WCC staff and

editor of the first volume of the History of the Ecumenical Movement; Bishop Hermann Dietzfelbinger, who had been active in ecumenical work in Germany and in the LWF; Rev. Dr Norman Goodall, one of the main architects of the union of the International Missionary Council and the WCC; Rev. Dr Ben. M. Herbster, first President of the United Church of Christ in the USA and a member of Central Committee; and Dr Jan Mirejowsky, who had been on the staff of the Youth Department.

Dr Castro said he would invite colleagues to provide supplementary information to some items in his report. He first reported on a number of visits to the World Council. A delegation from Iraq had come in an attempt to rally the support of the churches for peace with Iran and has asked that a WCC delegation visit Iraq. Other visitors included the Ambassador of Israel to the UN, and the Vice-chairman of the Council for Religious Affairs of the USSR, H.E. Peter Makartsev. A delegation from the government of the German Democratic Republic, led by a Vice-president, had brought a bust of Luther which had been presented to Dr Potter the previous year. The General Secretary spoke of the need to encourage visits to the Council also by representatives of non-socialist governments.

WCC staff had visited a number of crisis situations, including Sudan, Nicaragua and Ethiopia. Dr Potter and Mr Koshy had been to South Korea for the celebration of the 100th anniversary of Protestant missionary work there and the 60th anniversary of the founding of the National Council of Churches in Korea. They had gone on to China. This was the first visit of a WCC General Secretary to that country. Mr Koshy said that they had been struck by the vitality of the church in China, where the number of Protestants was now estimated at three million. Among the problems facing the church was that of its ageing leadership, whose successors would have to come from those now being trained in theological seminaries. It was still unclear what form the government of the church would take in its "post-denominational" situation. The China Christian Council was building bilateral relationships and was ready to participate in some WCC meetings. It had requested support for government social service projects and this policy question would have to be carefully studied. A report on the visit was available.

The General Secretary expressed his joy at the release of Pope Shenouda III of the Coptic Orthodox Church from confinement in a desert monastery. He also welcomed the release from detention in Sri Lanka of Ms Abayasekera, and of Dr C.M. Kao, General Secretary of the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan, who had been in prison for nearly four years. He congratulated Mr Charles Harper, secretary of the programme on human rights in Latin America, who had been given the Letelier Moffitt Memorial Human Rights Award for his work and that of the WCC in Latin America.

Turning to meetings and visits in which he himself had been involved, the General Secretary spoke of his participation in the

Unit II executive group and commission meetings in Veldhoven, Holland, and the Communication Department Committee in Annecy, France. He had participated in the meeting in Athens called by leaders of Argentina, Greece, India, Mexico, Sweden and Tanzania who had previously produced the New Delhi appeal for peace and nuclear disarmament. He had been able to present the position of the WCC and suggested that the communiqué issued by the meeting be circulated to member churches with an appeal for their prayers for this concern. This was agreed. The General Secretary had also visited the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople, the member churches in Greece, and the Armenian Patriarchate in Istanbul. He hoped that his visit to Archbishop Seraphim of the Church of Greece would help to clear up some of the misunderstandings which had arisen in the past and lead to better relations between the church and the WCC. The Evangelical Church of Greece was facing problems with regard to human rights and religious liberty. It was hoped that the two member churches in Greece could work for more dialogue together.

The General Secretary then spoke about the situation of the WCC US Office. It had been agreed with Dr Brouwer, the new General Secretary of the NCCC/USA that the Rev. Joan Campbell should continue as part-time Director for a further three months. Ms Campbell reported on the work of the Office, particularly with regard to interpretation of the WCC. The Office was trying to provide more information about the WCC to the US member churches through speeches, the media and a newsletter. There was a great demand for WCC publications in the USA and she hoped by July to be able to announce that the Office had taken on responsibility for distribution through the Kutztown Press. An intensive visit by the General Secretary was planned and she also expressed the hope that Central Committee members would inform the Office when they visit the USA.

The General Secretary reported that he had discussed with the Moderator how the 40th anniversary of the end of the Second World War might be commemorated by the member churches. The Moderator had suggested that the churches might be asked to remember the Stuttgart Declaration of 1945 which led to the reconciliation between the churches in Germany and those in other countries. This could be an ecumenical event in which all churches could consider their responsibility today.

Dr Castro reported that in November the Staff Executive Group (SEG) had met in Crêt-Bérard for three days of intensive discussion on WCC priorities. They had strongly affirmed that SEG should be the place where the whole of WCC work and regional relationships should be discussed and where cross-fertilization takes place.

The General Secretary concluded his report by paying tribute to Dr Potter and the gracious way in which he had prepared for the transition to a new General Secretary. He also thanked the staff for their support.

The Moderator referred to the enthronement of Bishop Desmond Tutu as Bishop of Johannesburg. Dr McCloud had been present at the ceremony. Dr Held said he had represented the WCC at the celebration in Oslo of the 100th anniversary of the birth of Bishop Berggrav, one of the first presidents of the WCC. He also reported briefly on the Officers' meeting, 11-13 December 1984.

In discussion Archbishop Athanasios expressed gratitude to the churches, councils and friends around the world who had demonstrated their solidarity with the Coptic Orthodox Church and whose appeals to the government had contributed to the decision to release Pope Shenouda. Ms Abayasekera thanked the WCC and churches which had supported her and her husband when they had been detained in September 1984. She hoped that the meeting to be held in Sri Lanka later in February, at which the WCC and Christian Conference of Asia would be represented, would help in the search for a solution to the communal problems there.

Bishop Hempel stressed that when government leaders of socialist countries visited Geneva representatives of member churches in the countries concerned should be invited to be present. Several speakers underlined the importance of such visits which helped governments to understand the work of the WCC and the witness of the churches. It was felt that opportunities for visits by Western governments should also be provided.

Archbishop Kirill spoke of the problem of proselytism which hindered local ecumenism in his own country as well as in Greece. The WCC should consider ways to improve this situation. Metropolitan Gregorios hoped to see legislation not against proselytism but in favour of religious liberty. The problem should also be considered in the light of the study on the role of religion in political conflicts.

In response to a question from Bishop Toth, Mr Koshy said that although the China Christian Council was ready for direct contacts with ecumenical bodies, a distinction must be drawn between such a relationship and membership. More time was needed on both sides for communication and interpretation between the WCC and Chinese church leaders. In that process the question of membership could be raised, but it must be noted that the China Christian Council did not call itself a church. Archbishop Kirill said that the request for financial participation in government projects needed full study and discussion.

Metropolitan Gregorios pointed to the degree of agreement between the New Delhi and Athens statements and WCC policy statements over the last ten years. He suggested that these points of agreement should be indicated to the member churches.

3. DISCUSSION WITH THE GENERAL SECRETARY

Several sessions of the meeting were devoted to a general discussion to enable members of the Executive Committee and the General Secretary to get to know each other. The General Secretary said that a vision of the future for the WCC had been given by the Vancouver Assembly and Central Committee had given programmatic content to this vision which commissions and working groups were trying to implement. What he could contribute was a certain style of work which he hoped would help in this process.

Firstly, he stressed that the WCC was at the service of the churches. The whole of its work should be geared to building up the local churches as the servant body of Christ in every place. It was not the intention to strengthen an institution per se but rather the Church of Jesus Christ and to serve the cause of the Kingdom of God. This did not imply acceptance of everything that happened in the life of the churches but a permanent, critical, loving relation with them. The Council was free to work with all kinds of Christian action groups but must help them to be in relation with the other manifestations of the church in their countries. In some situations, such as emergencies, the Council could relate to people unconnected with the Christian Church, but once the emergency was over, the WCC returned to its normal relations with the local churches.

The General Secretary then spoke of the need for a style of work that corresponds to the ecclesial reality of the WCC. As Vancouver was a celebration of worship but in no way an escape from the problems of the world today, so the prayer and worship life of the WCC should be enhanced. This should also be manifest in staff visits to the churches. If the WCC is an ecclesial reality, our relationships should be built on trust and friendship. This did not preclude conflict but that should be faced in the light of our common vocation. There was a need to show how all the WCC's work is related to the basic affirmation of our Christian faith and this theological undergirding should be discussed not only by staff but also by Central Committee.

Thirdly, the General Secretary said that the WCC was the servant of the whole ecumenical movement and should always keep a positive attitude to other manifestations of this movement, such as bilateral dialogues. It should support these dialogues and ask how they would lead to a new reality in the search for unity. It should also be involved as a servant in the internal dialogue within families of churches.

The General Secretary raised a number of more detailed points with regard to the WCC's work. In recent years there had been a growing concern for a more integral approach to this work, including more unit-wide programmes. His own emphasis would be different, though not necessarily in conflict with this tendency. He felt that the most creative work was done within sub-units and that when programmes involved several sub-units, problems arose. Programmes should therefore be the responsiblity of one

sub-unit, though of course there could and should be cooperation with other sub-units where appropriate.

A holistic approach could be helped by selecting items for full discussion by Central Committee. If Central Committee is flooded with too many papers it cannot make a creative contribution to the work. Another instrument which would help this approach was the annual report, which should not include everything the WCC does but rather highlight certain aspects of its work for the attention of the churches at a particular time.

Dr Castro spoke of the need for greater participation in the staff of Orthodox, women and youth and of some regions of the world. He suggested working towards the goal that every sub-unit with more than one staff member should include at least one woman and one Orthodox person. This might include young people coming as interns to gain experience of the ecumenical movement.

The General Secretary pleaded with the Executive Committee to direct staff to undertake less programme work so that more time could be devoted to following up and communicating programmes to the churches and to more visits. There was also a need to release funds to allow for more flexibility. He hoped the WCC could make a special effort to train new ecumenical generations. Sub-units like CCPD, CWME and CICARWS might hire one young person to represent the theological perspectives of these sub-units in the Youth Sub-unit. This team might work with all ecumenical bodies concerned with young people for a Christian gathering of youth to affirm their Christian identity. He had already invited staff of the YWCA, YMCA and WSCF to discuss this idea.

Finally, the General Secretary said that, although he realized that inter-communion in his lifetime was a human impossibility, he wondered whether ways and means might not be found to make a profound spiritual symbolic gesture of "eucharistic hospitality" in which one church might invite all other churches just once to participate in its eucharist.

Among the many contributions to the discussion of the General Secretary's presentation were the following:

Bishop Hempel asked whether the vision of Vancouver was really alive. He felt committed to three main concerns: the unity of the church, social justice, and dialogue with non-Christians. He asked how a simple vision of what the churches have in common, despite everything that separates them, could be made manifest.

Metropolitan Chrysostomos agreed that the WCC must be the servant of the churches and could help in their bilateral dialogues. However, it must not interfere with churches in their relationships. He welcomed the proposal to have less documents and a more effective agenda. While sympathizing from a spiritual point of view with the idea of eucharistic hospitality, he felt that to speak of it at this time was dangerous and would create misunderstanding among the churches.

Dr Bührig spoke about action groups and the General Secretary's view that the WCC could cooperate with them but must see that they are in contact with their local churches. She felt that many people today, especially women, found it hard to work with the institutional churches. While recognizing that for some member churches eucharistic hospitality was impossible, she said that many women, lay people and youth had found, on the very basis of their commitment to the Word, that suddenly theological differences no longer existed.

Mr Ashmall supported the General Secretary's proposal with regard to youth. However, he expressed caution about the idea of going back to more autonomy for sub-units. The Executive and staff must remember that the WCC was more than the sum total of its units and sub-units, and young people in particular wanted to know about the totality of its work.

Metropolitan Gregorios thought the WCC was over-extended and spoke in favour of concentrating on fewer programmes, though he doubted whether this was practicable. He fully supported the General Secretary in his wish for less paperwork and more human relations, and his effort to merge worship, work and community in the life of the WCC in a form which would be creative. He was also anxious to see youth being more involved in WCC work. He expressed hesitation about the use of the word "service": in some countries this was "the cleverest form of domination".

Metropolitan Antonie pointed out that the problems with regard to eucharistic hospitality were theological and ecclesiological and not a question of sentiment. Faith and Order would have to continue its work before such a dream could be realized.

Patriarch Ignatios was glad that the General Secretary had said that the WCC should be at the service of the churches. We must accept the fact of diversity but we all belonged to the one Catholic and Apostolic Church. We must stress the fact of being in dialogue, both bilateral dialogue and dialogue within one family.

Dr Tolen stressed the need to be committed to respecting the different gifts and experience we have in the ecumenical movement and in the units and sub-units because they constitute a richness. At the same time any specificity contributes to richness. The question to be asked by SEG, the Executive and Central Committees about any proposed programme should be: to what extent does this specific approach enrich the whole ecumenical enterprise?

Mr Piske expressed his satisfaction that the General Secretary had stressed taking seriously the ecclesial nature of the WCC and the need for dialogue with the churches. Too often work was done with different groups but without the involvement of the churches and this led to the churches ignoring the WCC.

The General Secretary responded to some of the points made. He reaffirmed his intention to increase participation of under-represented groups in the staff. With regard to the ecclesial nature of the WCC, constant dialogue with the churches was needed both for their renewal and that of the Council. Action groups seeking justice in the name of Christ had the right to our cooperation but they must also cooperate with the churches and be in critical dialogue with them, since it is through the churches that the Gospel is passed from generation to generation. Dr Castro hoped there would be a continuing conversation about eucharistic hospitality. This was not a question of sentiment but an element of theological reality. How could we convince the nations and the poor of the earth that from the Eucharist comes a message that overcomes all divisions? He did not want to put pressure on any church, but hoped for a solid theological conversation which would help each one to understand the mystery and power of the Holy Table of the Lord. He agreed with Metropolitan Gregorios that service could become neo-colonialist, especially to poor churches, and the Council must always be sensitive to this danger. With regard to the unity of the Council and specificity of units and sub-units, he referred again to the new role it was hoped SEG would play in future. He hoped a way could be found also to enable the Central Committee to be more involved in such discussion. He assured Bishop Hempel that the vision of Vancouver was not forgotten. Unity, justice, dialogue and evangelism were part of the vision of the WCC, coming out of its prayer and worship life, and he hoped something of this vision which unites the member churches would be seen in the reports of the Moderator and General Secretary to Central Committee in Buenos Aires.

4. REPORTS ON PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES SINCE CENTRAL COMMITTEE 1984

A. UNIT I: Prof. Sabev presented the report. Since July 1984 staff work had been focussed on the following tasks: consultations on issues central to sub-unit mandates; council-wide concerns and joint projects; relationships with member churches and other partners in the ecumenical movement; preparation of commission and working group meetings; improvement of working methods and cooperation. He drew special attention to the following items in the report:

Faith and Order had held a consultation in connection with the Apostolic Faith study in Kottayam, India, in November. Another consultation related to"The unity of the Church and the renewal of human community" had been held in France in January. The third volume in the series "Confessing our faith around the world - Caribbean and Central America" had been published in December and dedicated to Dr Potter. The CWME Commission had met in Limuru, Kenya, 13-20 January. In addition to a review of programme, it had discussed five major issues: Gospel and culture; Good news to the poor and resistance as form of Christian witness; Relations with Evangelicals; Ecumenical Resource Sharing System; and the next World Conference on Mission and

Evangelism, now proposed to be held in 1988. The Sub-unit on Dialogue had held two small consultations on Christian-Jewish dialogue, in Boston, USA, in November, and Christian-Buddhist dialogue in Hong Kong in December. Church and Society, in co-operation with the Church of Scotland, had organized a workshop on "Technology, employment and rapid social change" in Glasgow in September. A book on "Science education and ethical values" was published in December. The report outlined plans for future activities, meetings and publications of the sub-units. As part of the effort to improve working methods and cooperation, a Unit I Executive Group had been set up and arragements made for its first meeting.

In discussion a number of questions were asked, particularly with regard to the reception process of BEM. Dr Gassmann reported that so far 9 official responses had been received from churches from a variety of countries and confessions. The sub-unit staff provided advice and material when requested but were careful not to interfere in the process within the churches.

The report was referred to the Programme Sub-committee.

At a later session, Metropolitan Chrysostomos presented the following comments and suggestions from the sub-committee regarding Unit I:

1) In view of the importance of the reception process of Baptism, Eucharist and Ministry, Faith and Order is requested to present a progress report on this process to the Central Committee in July. Clarification of "reception" and "response" should be included.

2) The Christian-Muslim dialogue should take into serious consideration different concerns in different countries, including:

   a) Ways to promote Christian-Muslim co-existence in a number of situations, paying attention also to the meaning of sharia in religiously plural societies, and the effects of its implication as law of the country;

   b) The problems related to a nation's self-understanding based on religious convictions;

   c) Christian-Muslim perceptions on ethical questions such as rich and poor, peace and justice, etc.;

   d) What contribution can religious people make to national development, unity and peace?

The Executive Committee accepted these recommendations.

B. UNIT II: The report was introduced by the acting Unit Staff Moderator, Mr Koshy. It was presented within the framework of the meetings of the five commissions held in Veldhoven, Netherlands, 14-19 January. The meetings had provided an opportunity to review unit-wide programmes and issues as well as those of

the individual sub-units. All commissions had underlined the importance of theological reflection. A number of specific situations and developments were of common interest to different commissions. These included Ethiopia, New Caledonia, Southern Africa, and the Sanctuary Movement in the USA. CICARWS had emphasized its diaconal ministry, the increasing complexity of the problems of refugees, and its role in resource sharing. It had decided to intensify its work in the framework of the Churches' Drought Action in Africa. A high-level WCC pastoral delegation, led by Archbishop Makhulu, had visited Ethiopia in December and steps had been taken to support the Ethiopian Orthodox Church in its programme. CCPD had decided to focus on justice and solidarity with the poor by promoting biblical, theological and ethical reflection on the churches' actions for justice and participation and redefining the concept and practice of development in this light. The priorities set by CMC were studies on health, healing and wholeness; promotion of innovative approaches to primary health care "Contact" as a medium for sharing information to meet the needs of various groups; participation in the development of curricula in the training of health personnel, and promotion of the healing ministry of the church and congregations. PCR had highlighted developments in Southern Africa, the situation of women under racism, land rights and indigenous peoples, and race and minority issues. CCIA had appointed a Human Rights Advisory Group which would function with flexibility to deal effectively with specific situations and specialized aspects of human rights work. A number of critical situations, including Sri Lanka, Sudan, New Caledonia, the Middle East, Southern Africa and Central America had been monitored. An ecumenical consultation on Peace and Justice in North-East Asia had been held in Japan in October.

The report was discussed briefly and Mr Koshy asnwered a number of questions. The report was referred to the Programme Sub-committee.

At a later session, Metropolitan Chrysostomos reported that the sub-committee had made the following comments and recommendations:

1) Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation

   a) Further elaboration of the programmes under this, including some preliminary plans for the world conference, may be given to the Central Committee in July/August 1985;

   b) Some of the studies under the programme emphasis "Just, Participatory and Sustainable Society" especially on justice and Church in solidarity with the poor, may be continued under "Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation".

      Further conceptual clarification of Justice with a view to possibly making an ecumenical affirmation of justice is recommended.

2) International Food Disorder

The programmes under this need highlighting at the Central Committee.

3) The CCIA was asked to give special attention to:

a) New developments to East-West relations including follow-up of the Helsinki process at Stockholm and the planned USA-USSR negotiations;

b) New findings about consequences, including ecological consequences, of a nuclear exchange (nuclear winter), in addition to folloiwng up its present work in general on nuclear disarmament.

The Executive Committee accepted these comments and recommendations.

C. UNIT III: Ms Assaad presented the report. Since July 1984 staff had been involved in three major activities: a) planning for meetings, including those of the five sub-unit working groups to be held in Oaxtepec, Mexico, 18-26 April 1985. Some visits and consultations were planned in this connection. b) travel to visit churches and constituencies, to respond to invitations to meetings or to hold training courses and consultations. Travel by Unit III staff included a visit to China by Youth, PTE and Biblical Studies, to the Caribbean and Latin America by Education, and to five African countries by Women. The Sub-unit on Education participated in a series of workshops on ecumenical learning; training courses for Bible study enablers were held in the USA, Britain, Sri Lanka and the South Pacific; a six-week course for leadership in lay training, with participants from all continents, coordinated by RCL, started in Tanzania on 31 January. Staff of the Youth Sub-unit have been involved in the planning of a number of regional meetings in connection with International Youth Year. RCL held a consultation in Annecy, France, in December on "Spirituality for our times". All programme units had cooperated in this meeting. PTE had organized a seminar on "Ministry with the poor" at Bossey in July, and a workshop on "Theology by the people" in Rome in August. The Sub-unit on Women held a small workshop in Madras, India, on the theme "Participation of women from a biblical perspective". This sub-unit is also deeply involved in preparation for the UN Decade on Women Conference/NGO Forum to be held in Nairobi in July 1985. It had participated in the preparatory conference of NGOs in Vienna in October and organized a meeting of Christian women attending this conference to discuss plans to support the hospitality centre to be run by African women during the NGO Forum.c) Unit III staff had also been engaged in writing papers and publishing books. These included "Immanuel" by Dr Hans-Ruedi Weber, and "The Word became Flesh" by Dr John Pobee, and the special newsletter on "Women and Power" by the Women's Sub-unit.

Mr Sintado called attention to the statement on the International Youth Year issued by the Officers and sent to the member churches in December. He also reported that the Youth Sub-unit was helping

to coordinate the presence of international ecumenical youth organizations at the 12th World Youth Festival to be held in Moscow.

The report was referred to the Programme Sub-committee. In its report the Sub-committee made no recommendations regarding Unit III programmes but the Executive Committee agreed to affirm these programmes.

D. GENERAL SECRETARIAT

The report was presented by the General Secretary who stressed the following points: a) all sub-units were being encouraged to highlight the concerns of women in their publications; b) there was a need to expand the use of the Ecumenical Institute, Bossey, by the churches; c) he would have a preliminary meeting during Central Committee with the general secretaries of the regional conferences of churches to plan a wider consultation, including constituency representatives of the WCC and the regional bodies, in November in Geneva; d) the Communication Department Committee recommended the wider use and dissemination of existing publications, etc. and that time be allowed during Central Committee for a presentation of communication possibilities and problems; e) regional resource sharing groups were being formed. It had been suggested that an international planning committee be set up to prepare for a world conference on resource sharing. The CICARWS Commission had expressed interest in this conference as a way to reconsider the role of CICARWS today when many agencies are involved in the Third World; f) the Joint Working Group, in addition to its concern for the way towards unity, common witness, social collaboration and Roman Catholic cooperation with various WCC programmes, was giving special attention to ecumenical formation and to the issues of apartheid and the hierarchy of truths; g) there had been many visits to member churches by staff since July 1984. It had been agreed that no meeting should be organized without consultation with and visitation to the churches in the region; h) expansion of the Ecumenical Centre: authorization for the new wing had now been received from the Geneva authorities and a detailed design would now be prepared. It was hoped to start work in mid-1985 and completion was anticipated for mid-1987.

Mr Boerma said that the "annual report" would be published shortly as a special issue of "One World". The Department was also preparing "speakers' kits" to help Central Committee members and others to become communicators of the WCC and the ecumenical movement. In response to questions, he said the Department would discuss with the World Association for Christian Communication ways in which churches could also explore possibilities of producing video tapes and material in languages other than the five WCC working languages.

The report was referred to the Programme Sub-committee.

At a later session, Metropolitan Chrysostomos presented the comments of the Sub-committee.

1) Regional Ecumenical Organisations

The Sub-committee welcomes the plan for a meeting with representatives of the regional conferences of churches, and requests that specific plans for this meeting, as well as that proposed for national council representatives, be brought to Central Committee in July.

The Executive Committee endorsed this request.

2) Visits to churches

After discussion of the comments of the Sub-committee on visits to churches, it was agreed that Metropolitan Gregorios, Patriarch Ignatios and Dr Love should redraft this section of the report. At a later session, Dr Love proposed the following text, which was accepted:

Recalling the emphasis given by the Vancouver Assembly and the 1984 Central Committee to ecumenical visits, the Sub-committee asks that the staff provide to the next Executive Committee a plan on how the Council will respond to this emphasis. Such a plan should take note of:

a) the potential need for rearranging programmatic and financial priorities;

b) the need for church-to-church visits for which the member churches themselves may often take initiatives;

c) the variety of styles possible for visits; and

d) the need to relate any plan for visitation to the programmatic concerns of the Council.

E. THEOLOGICAL DIVERSITY AND COHERENCE

The General Secretary referred to the discussions in the Assembly Programme Guidelines Committee and in Central Committee and outlined his understanding of what was required. Firstly, the theological basis undergirding every WCC programme should be made more explicit. Secondly, there should be more theological cross-fertilization among programmes, using existing mechanisms. The Staff Executive Group should become a place for theological discussion of programmes and the Executive and Central Committees should be helped to participate not only in the administrative oversight of the Council but also in theological discussion. Thirdly, he understood that the WCC should attempt to articulate a certain frame of reference for recognizing ecumenical theologies. The Council welcomed theological contributions from all over the world but what were the minimum requirements to facilitate the ecumenical dialogue? The authority of the Bible? The WCC Basis? There were common convictions that the ecumenical movement was coming to affirm that would constitute the parameters for a theological system. He hoped that the frame of reference could be the area within which full theological freedom is recognized.

The General Secretary suggested some specific steps which might be taken. Lectures might be given to staff on contemporary theological work. A researcher might be invited to identify the dif-

ferent methodologies used in theological work in the Council, to find the common factors which would help to describe the frame of reference. Occasional consultations might be held with a small advisory group.

In discussion, Metropolitan Gregorios stressed that there should be more theological content in all WCC meetings, including the Executive and Central Committees. He proposed that during the Week of Meetings persons from the constituency be invited to make presentations for discussion with staff. He also proposed a series of lectures on secular hermeneutics. Metropolitan Antonie warned that the WCC must not seek one single theology: it must remain a meeting place for various theologies. Dr Bührig said that theological tensions had existed even in New Testament times. WCC members should start from the basis of their various traditions and spiritual and human experiences and interpret and confront them mutually. They should not try to come to harmony too quickly. Bishop Hempel supported the approach of the General Secretary towards articulating this common vision. The Moderator asked the General Secretary to continue work along the lines he had proposed.

F. IDEOLOGIES

Mr Blanc presented a progress report on work on ideologies as envisaged by Central Committee in July 1984. A WCC task force had been established, bringing together representatives of Unit I (Dialogue, Faith and Order, CWME, Church and Society), Unit II (CCPD, CCIA, PCR), Unit III (Women in Church and Society) and the General Secretariat (Library, Communication). The task force had realized how difficult it was to isolate correctly the objectives of the study and even to arrive at a common understanding of the term "ideologies" itself.

CCPD, which carried administrative responsibility for work on ideologies, saw its role as organizing a study on ideological factors in socio-economic domination and in the struggle for social transformation in one or more specific countries and studying the issue of ideology and faith in situations of struggles of oppressed communities at local and regional levels. It would work in relation to other sub-units concerned with the issue of ideology. It proposed to recruit a consultant to carry out the programme for 18-24 months and to act as secretary of the task force. Other sub-units represented on the task force would assist in plans to study areas in which ideologies play a role, e.g. sexism, militarism, racism, modern technocratic culture, and ideological aspects of the mass media. Faith and Order, with Unit II, would reflect on the influence of ideologies on differing positions of Christians regarding justice, peace and the integrity of creation, and what that implies for the unity of the church. The Sub-unit on Dialogue was hoping to recruit an intern to do some preliminary work as the basis for setting up the dialogue between Christians and Marxists.

The report was referred to the Programme Sub-committee.

At a later session, Metropolitan Chrysostomos reported that the sub-committee had taken note of the progress report, and requested

that a new report be brought to the next meeting of the Executive Committee in July. This was agreed.

G. THE ROLE OF THE WCC IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Mr Koshy referred to the general approval given by the Executive Committee in July 1984 to an outline for a study document on "The Role of the WCC in International Affairs". A draft of the document had been discussed in the CCIA Commission and the Department of Communication Working Group in January and some changes had been made on the basis of these discussions. Executive Committee members were asked for suggestions and comments for the revision of the draft document before them. A revised document would be presented to the Committee in July and, through it, to the Central Committee.

After some discussion, it was agreed that the following group should consider the draft document in detail: Dr Love, Dr Nababan and Bishop Toth.

At a later session, Dr Love presented a number of comments and suggestions to be taken into account in the revision of the draft document. With one addition, the proposals of the group were accepted.

H. THE ROLE OF RELIGION IN CONFLICTS

A progress report on this study, requested by the Executive Committee in February 1984, was among the documents shared with the Committee. The report noted that a small group would be convened in May/June to work on a draft study document.

I. WORLD CONFERENCES

The Programme Sub-committee was asked to consider the questions raised by the holding of four world conferences before the Seventh Assembly. Metropolitan Chrysostomos presented the report of the Sub-committee as follows:

The various world meetings which are to be held before the next Assembly are not all of the same nature and magnitude.

The World Conference on Mission of CWME is likely to be of the same magnitude as Melbourne 1980, i.e. some 600 people. The size of the World Conference on Faith and Order would be around 350 participants.The plans for the meeting on Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation (JPIC) are still in an early stage, but it will probably also be a gathering of some 300 persons.

The Sub-committee noted that what was formerly proposed as a world world conference on Resource Sharing is now changed to be an international consultation, with the purpose of bringing to a conclusion the consultative process of the last several years. The international consultation may well include an evaluation and an analysis of the contemporary nature of inter-church aid and the role of CICARWS. The Resource Sharing Task Force, in

consultation with the General Secretariat, should bring a full proposal for the international consultation to the July Executive Committee, including proposals for a planning committee, budget, etc.

These are the four major meetings for which Central Committee has given approval. In addition, there is the proposal for a world youth "event" which needs to be further discussed and clarified.

Concerning the timing of these meetings, the international consultation on Resource Sharing could take place towards the end of 1986 or early in 1987.

CWME and Faith and Order are both planning to hold their conferences in 1988 or 1989 (Faith and Order). It is possible that one conference be organised at the beginning of 1988 and the other towards the end of the same year. The possibility of having these conferences take place at the same time and venue might be explored.

The JPIC conference is planned for 1989.

In view of these dates, it might be necessary to plan the Assembly in 1991.

In the planning, the Central Committee meetings also have to be taken into account:

1987 - January
1988 - July
1989 - July

Another factor to be considered is the demand on the churches to make the people and the financial resources available for all these events.

It is suggested that an overall proposal be brought to the next meeting of the Central Committee.

Dr McCloud moved the following amendment to this suggestion:

That staff bring to the July Executive Committee meeting proposals for all World Council consultations and conferences projected through 1989, including information on dates, size and provisional budget to be sought from the churches and their agencies.

He expressed concern about the impact of so many world meetings on the churches in terms of finance, people involved and the capacity to deal with the material resulting from these events. It was essential for the member churches' own planning to have information about major meetings, including Central Committee and the Seventh Assembly.

After discussion, the motion was adopted.

5. PUBLIC ISSUES

Information was given to the Executive Committee on developments in a number of situations.

A. Southern Africa

Dr Barkat reported that the CCIA/PCR document on Southern Africa presented to Central Committee in July 1984 had been sent to the churches. A number of factors had kept the issue of Southern Africa in the international press: the formation of the United Democratic Front, which had helped to galvanize grassroots opposition to apartheid; the award of the Nobel Peace Prize to Bishop Desmond Tutu; the new vitality of the trade union movement, and the formation of the Free South Africa Movement in the USA. The WCC was being asked to prepare special material for Africa Day, 25 September 1985, marking 100 years of the fragmentation of Africa.

Ms Campbell of the US Office emphasized the importance of the Free South Africa Movement for the struggle against apartheid and the US support for it. She also pointed out that the movement had strong support from the leadership of the member churches of the WCC. Taking note of this development, it was agreed that the General Secretary should send a message of encouragement on behalf of the Executive Committee to the NCCC in the USA.

In the general discussion on relationships with Southern Africa, Archbishop Makhulu reminded the Committee that there are many different forces and groups engaged in the struggle against racism.

B. Sudan

Mr Koshy reported that a WCC delegation had visited Sudan at the end of September 1984. The government had agreed to the setting up of a joint Christian/Muslim committee to discuss the implementation of Sharia (Islamic law) and there had been some consultation with the churches in this connection. The WCC was in touch with the Sudan Council of Churches and the government regarding problems in South Sudan which had been intensified by fighting and the arrival of a large number of refugees from Ethiopia.

C. Sri Lanka

Government proposals had not satisfied representatives of the Tamil people and the all-party talks had now come to an end. The churches were in a difficult situation but it was still hoped that they could play a role in reactivating political discussions. Staff of the WCC and Christian Conference of Asia would attend a consultation of church leaders in Sri Lanka to be held later in February and the possibility of a WCC delegation to Sri Lanka would be discussed.

D. Middle East

Mr Koshy reported that the WCC was working on three particular issues: a) The plight of the more than 50,000 Iraqi prisoners of war in Iran which was becoming a serious humanitarian problem, particularly since the International Committee of the Red Cross was no longer allowed to visit them. The WCC was exploring the

situation with the ICRC and a number of governments. b) The proposal for a conference on the Middle East under UN auspices which was being supported by the WCC and other NGOs. c) A new and difficult situation which was being created by the partial withdrawal of Israeli forces from Southern Lebanon. Religious and community leaders were working for reconciliation and should be upheld in our prayers.

E. New Caledonia

Mr Weingärtner presented a note outlining the latest developments in the situation. In September 1984 the Independence Front formed the Kanak and Socialist National Liberation Front (FLNKS), which organized a boycott of the elections held in November. As a result, less than 50% of the population took part in the elections and more than 80% of the Kanak boycotted them. The Assembly was therefore made up overwhelmingly of radically anti-independence people. In December FLNKS set up a Provisional Independence Government, under the presidency of Mr Jean-Marie Tjibaou. He is a former member of the CCIA human rights advisory group. Violence broke out and the French Parliament declared a state of emergency, which was extended to the end of June 1985. The French government had proposed a compromise plan for a referendum on independence "in association with France" to be held in July. This would not solve the FLNKS' demographic disadvantage since the Kanak people have been reduced to a minority (44%) in their own land. The Protestant churches in both New Caledonia and France have underlined the need for independence but have tried to play a moderating role. It was suggested that the Executive Committee consider sending a message to the Evangelical Church in New Caledonia, underlining the WCC's continued pastoral concern and strong support for independence, as expressed by Central Committee in 1979 and the Sixth Assembly in 1983. It was agreed that Ms Skuse and Dr Tolen should draft a letter.

At a later session the draft letter was presented to the Executive Committee. Some rephrasing was suggested and, with this change, it was agreed to authorize the Moderator and General Secretary to send the letter to the Evangelical Church in New Caledonia (Appendix III).

Dr McCloud suggested that CCIA prepare information, for discussion at the next Central Committee, on situations of potential conflict in countries where the WCC has strong member churches.

F. Events in 1985

The Executive Committee agreed that a letter be sent by the Moderator and General Secretary reminding the churches of important events in 1985, including the anniversary of the end of the Second World War and of the founding of the United Nations. Africa Day could be mentioned in the letter. This message would be preparatory to a major statement on the UN and the WCC's and member churches' support for it, which the CCIA Commission had recommended should be made by Central Committee in July/August 1985.

G. Human Rights

Mr Koshy drew attention to a paper before the Executive Commitee on a number of special situations where restrictions on church-related persons had been lifted, and situations where work has to be continued in regard to such cases.

6. APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP

The applications were introduced by the General Secretary.

A. Congregational Christian Church in American Samoa

After a full discussion, the Executive Committee agreed (with one abstention) to recommend to the Central Committee that the Congregational Christian Church in American Samoa be accepted as a full member church of the WCC.

B. The Methodist Church in Zimbabwe

The Executive Committee agreed to recommend to the Central Committee that the Methodist Church in Zimbabwe be accepted as a full member church of the WCC.

Patriarch Ignatios raised the problem of the proportional decrease in Orthodox membership as new non-Orthodox churches are accepted. Archbishop Makhulu pointed out that there were established criteria for the admission of churches which must be observed. The representation and role of the Orthodox churches within the ecumenical community should be looked at as a separate issue. Archbishop Kirill expressed satisfaction that the percentage of Orthodox participation in commissions and committees, including the Executive and Central Committees was close to 23%. However, he hoped that before the next Assembly the principles formulated between Nairobi and Vancouver concerning general balance should be developed creatively. The General Secretary welcomed the Orthodox desire to participate in and contribute to WCC work. Without adequate Orthodox participation the whole theological and spiritual life of the Council would be poorer. Efforts must be made to ensure full Orthodox participation also in the staff and in such bodies as the regional groups for resource sharing. Mr Ashmall reminded the Committee of the paper on Assembly nominations which Central Committee in 1984 had said should be the starting point for future discussions on participation.

. ROMAN CATHOLIC RELATIONSHIPS

Mr Blanc referred to the section of the report on the General Secretariat on Roman Catholic relationships. He spoke of three elements in the present situation. a) Both hopes and frustrations are grounded in the extraordinary development of the ecumenical movement over the last 25 years and the Roman Catholic Church's involvement in it. b) Rome entered the ecumenical movement honestly and fairly with its own understanding of the universal Church,

and the Pope had again referred to this during his visit to the WCC. c) The ministry of the WCC in the ecumenical movement and that of Rome were not parallel.

After discussion, the matter was referred to the Programme Sub-committee.

At a later session, the General Secretary reported that an invitation had been received from Cardinal Willebrands for the WCC to send an observer to a meeting in Rome in April of all secretaries of Roman Catholic ecumenical commissions throughout the world to assess Roman Catholic local ecumenical development.

Metropolitan Chrysostomos presented the recommendations of the Programme Sub-committee with regard to Roman Catholic relationships.

The Executive Committee agreed:

1) to receive the report on Joint Working Group activities as included in the Report of the General Secretariat;

2) having initiated a discussion as regards the present ecumenical situation and the role of the WCC and the RCC in its development, to decide to continue this discussion at its next meeting on the basis of an internal document which should embody the comments made by members during this session;

3) to request the General Secretary to initiate a survey of member churches' involvement in local ecumenical action with Roman Catholic churches, as part of a process of re-assessment of the ecumenical situation over a 2-year period;

4) to request that Roman Catholic relationships be highlighted during the next Central Committee meeting, through

   a) a report on JWG activities in the General Secretariat report,

   b) invitations and visits to the Roman Catholic Church and to ecumenical groups involving Roman Catholics, and/or any other means to be suggested in consultation with the member churches in Argentina;

5) to note the ecumenical importance of the 20th anniversary of the Second Vatican Council of the RCC and its forthcoming review by an Extraordinary Synod, and to request that this be highlighted through, for instance, a special issue of the Ecumenical Review or a special speech during Central Committee.

8. CENTRAL COMMITTEE 1985

A. Practical arrangements

The General Secretary outlined the local arrangements. The meeting would be held in the Centro Cultural San Martin in the centre of Buenos Aires and all participants would be lodged in a hotel five minutes' walk away. The member churches in Argentina had appointed a planning committee and a full-time organizer for local arrangements. A staff visit would be made in March to discuss plans in detail.

B. Process and programme

In preparing the proposed timetable, staff had tried to take into consideration some of the comments made by Central Committee members last July. An attempt had been made to have more free time during the meeting, more time to discuss substantive issues such as the reports of the Moderator and General Secretary or a particular theme, fewer plenaries and more time for discussion in small groups and units. It was suggested that members of Central Committee should receive a list of all WCC activities but that only a few selected items should be brought for full discussion by Central Committee each year. It was also suggested that a theme might be chosen for theological and biblical reflection. This might be one of the special concerns of the WCC, e.g. Gospel and Culture, Spirituality, the concerns of Women, or Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation. The General Secretary noted that one session would be given to the concerns of Youth, particularly International Youth Year, and another to a presentation on the Argentine churches. Provision had also been made for President Alfonsin to address Central Committee on the question of international justice.

In discussion several members stressed the importance of Bible study in the small groups, and the need for a clear agenda and orientation for the leadership of these groups. The idea of having a theme was welcomed. Suggestions for the theme included peace; justice; life on earth (the nuclear threat and its consequences); healing and sharing. It was also suggested that concern for the "disappeared" persons in Argentina should be highlighted, perhaps during a special worship event. Dr Barrow asked that an opportunity be provided for sharing with Central Committee the experiences of the women's meetings in Nairobi. All suggestions were referred to the Programme Sub-committee.

At a later session Metropolitan Chrysostomos presented the recommendations of the Sub-committee. The Sub-committee recommended that the theme be: "God's justice and our injustice - promise and task". After discussion, it was agreed that this be amended to: "God's justice - promise and challenge". The Sub-committee suggested that the second plenary session on 30 July might be used for another topic such as Roman Catholic relationships or the concerns of women. The Executive Committee was concerned

that there be adequate time for discussion of the Moderator's and General Secretary's reports either in groups or in plenary. It was agreed to accept the suggestions of the Sub-committee as follows, for consideration by staff in preparing the detailed programme:

a) Bible study be the priority for the groups, although the first session will respond to the Moderator's and General Secretary's reports. The groups should not be expected to make reports, but those with specific concerns should be able to express them;

b) every effort be made to keep the groups as small as possible. In any case, there needs to be especially careful organisation and preparation of leadership;

c) the programme for 2 August be as follows:

09.30: Presentation of the Nairobi Women's event
11.30: Groups (4th session)
15.30: Unit Committees (3rd session)
17.30: Unit Committees (4th session);

d) the Unit meetings (6th session) proposed for 7 August be replaced by the Communication workshop;

e) the Unit Committee officers decide in advance which programme matters should be selected for discussion in the work of the Unit Committees and in Central Committee;

f) the Unit Committees be enabled to have sub-groups where needed for specific tasks;

g) the possibility of one of the regional meetings being an inter-regional meeting be considered. If a regional meeting is desired in the first week, it could be held on one evening;

h) the presentation of the Argentine churches must include the Orthodox churches in Argentina;

i) careful attention be given to facilitating and simplifying the process of the meeting, and especially its decision-making, in the light of the recommendations made following the 1984 meeting.

9. TRANSLATION OF CENTRAL COMMITTEE MINUTES

The Moderator reported that the Officers had discussed the question of translation of the Central Committee minutes. Up to 1984 the full text had been published in English and German and a summary in French. For 1984 it had been proposed that a summary be published also in Spanish and that, in order not to increase expenses, the German edition also be a summary. The Officers had accepted this proposal on the understanding that all Central

Committee members and churches would receive the full English text in addition to any appropriate summary, and that documents in any of the four languages could be sent on request.

The Executive Committee agreed to endorse the policy proposed by the Officers for future meetings.

10. REPORT OF THE NOMINATIONS SUB-COMMITTEE

A. Membership of Commissions and Working Groups

Dr Talbot presented the proposals of the Nominations Sub-committee on membership of commissions and working groups. In July 1984 the Central Committee had approved lists of membership for the period through 1985 on the understanding that the Executive Committee would revise these lists in so far as "feasible and desirable" to improve the balances, on the basis of proposals made by the members of Central Committee and member churches. The Officers had reviewed this matter in December 1984 and again just prior to the current meeting. The proposals now made resulted in an improved situation. The report listed the membership approved by Central Committee together with the changes proposed for each sub-unit. A number of persons were still to be named, although places were reserved for persons meeting certain criteria. The names of these persons would be presented to the Executive Committee in July before reporting to Central Committee. Dr Talbot noted that 129 member churches were represented on Central Committee and that an additional 60 were represented on commissions and working groups.

Dr McCloud reminded the Committee of the procedure agreed by the Central Committee. The Executive was asked to make modifications in February and report any changes to Central Committee immediately. Several members spoke against dropping names already approved by Central Committee and hoped that balances could be further improved by adding names where vacancies existed. Dr Talbot said that only three Orthodox churches had responded to the invitation to submit further names and these churches were already represented on commissions. She also pointed out that many sub-unit lists were already well-balanced and that additions might create other imbalances, e.g. the number of women. Archbishop Makhulu pressed for the inclusion of someone from South Africa on the PCR Commission.

Dr Love proposed the following motion:

That only the names of persons appearing in the report of the Nominations Sub-committee as now proposed be accepted for service on commissions and working groups;* where vacancies occur in these commissions and working groups now or in the future (current vacancies or those due to resignations or non-participation), they should be filled following the principle that the numbers of Orthodox, women and youth should be increased.

* Changes will be circulated to members of Central Committee for their information.

The motion was put to the vote and carried by 11 votes to 6, with 3 abstentions.

Mr Stalsett asked if some instrument could be developed to meet the concern for adequate representation of all member churches and categories. The General Secretary suggested that a list of desiderata which would provide a pattern of procedures to be followed in preparing for the Seventh Assembly, might be produced by staff for discussion by the Executive Committee.

B. Appointment of new Regional Resource Sharing Groups in Africa and Latin America

Dr Talbot referred to the agreement of the Executive Committee in February 1983 that regional resource sharing groups should be formed. A group for the Middle East had already been agreed and the Officers meeting in December 1984 had appointed a group for Europe. The Sub-committee now presented proposals for groups for Africa and Latin America. There had been consultation with the All Africa Conference of Churches and the Latin American Council of Churches respectively.

Dr Stockwell, moderator of the Resource Sharing Task Force, said that the groups had two basic tasks: a) to look at all resources which are shared in a given region to try to define priorities and emphases and, in the process, to look at the totality of programmes and projects related to the WCC and to try to bring some overall understanding and critique; b) to screen the projects, mainly related to CICARWS but also those related to CWME, Youth, etc., which are listed in the Resource Sharing Book.

Patriarch Ignatios asked that an Orthodox in Latin America be added to that regional group. This was agreed. Mr Bena-Silu suggested that a Kimbanguist be included in the African list. The Moderator said the General Secretary would consider this request. On these understandings, the Executive Committee agreed to the lists as presented (Appendix IV).

Dr Tolen asked that in future such lists include an indication of the nominees' programmatic concerns. The General Secretary, while welcoming the proposal to add a representative of the large communities of Orthodox in Latin America, stressed that these groups must remain primarily technical rather than representative.

11. REPORT OF THE FINANCE SUB-COMMITTEE

Dr McCloud presented the report as follows:

1. 1984 Financial Outcome

As the Executive Committee is meeting earlier than usual this year, it is not possible to bring more than very preliminary elements of information concerning the 1984 financial outcome.

First results indicate that for the third year in a row there will most probably be a slight excess of income over expenditure when considering the accounts of the Council as a whole. It appears this will be true both for undesignated income and, globally, for designated income. With few exceptions, the fund balances available to the sub-units will remain at the same level as in the beginning of 1984.

This outcome is mainly due to the fact that the budget has been underspent because several staff positions remained vacant during relatively long periods of time, and to the fact that the US dollar stayed well above the anticipated level during the whole year.

The total income received in 1984 seems to have been very close to the expected levels.

2. 1984 Interest Allocation

Within the context of existing policies regarding the distribution of interest earned, and in line with recent practice, the Finance Sub-committee recommends that the interest earned in 1984 be allocated as follows:

- Interest earned on Swiss franc funds to those funds after deduction of loss on exchange (if any).
- Interest earned on US dollar funds to those funds after deduction of loss on exchange (if any).

Furthermore, since the level of the Exchange Fluctuation Reserve is higher than the level required by the Investment Advisory Group, it is recommended that, as was the case in 1983, the interest earned on this Reserve be credited to the Operating balance of the Council.

The Executive Committee accepted these recommendations.

3. Income Preliminary Budget

3.1 Income Projections

Programme income has been estimated by sub-unit and by department on the following basis:

- 1985 pledges where known, in original currency. 1984 pledges, or actual contributions where known, at the same level, in original currency.

These amounts converted to Swiss francs at the budget rates agreed to by the Investment Advisory Committee:

US$ 1 = Sfr. 2.00
DM 1 = Sfr. 0.80

Undesignated income has been estimated at Sfr. 6,400,000, a 6.7% increase over 1985, based on the way in which churches have responded to the Assembly challenge. It is not yet possible to analyse the 1984 accounts to determine how much of the additional amount received was due to exchange rate factors and how much due to increases in original currency contributions by member churches. An analysis of the last three years' contributions will be made and any significant factors which might affect the 1986 budget will be brought to the Executive Committee in July.

Undesignated income has been allocated on the following basis:

- the same allocations as were budgeted in 1985, or the actual amount required to balance the budget after taking into account programme income and available fund balances, where this is less than the 1985 allocation.

A major factor in the projection of income and therefore of the size of the programme possible in 1986 is the exchange rate at which original currency contributions will be converted into Swiss Francs. The Committee was very conscious that there was a considerable disparity between current rates (US$ 2.73, DM 0.85) and those recommended by the Investment Advisory Group. After discussion, the Committee instructed staff to bring to the Executive Committee in July a study of the effects on income of the following exchange rates: US$ 2.10 and 2.40, DM 0.85.

3.2 Expenditure Budget Assumptions and Main Results

The Finance Sub-committee received a first draft of the 1986 budget. The main purpose of a preliminary budget is to identify a number of problem areas that will require further attention. It is a first expression of needs as envisaged by the various entities of the Council within the context of the constraints imposed by the economic environment (inflation, economic slowdown), the Staff Rules and Regulations, Swiss legal requirements, and the number of staff positions authorized by the Central Committee.

The following assumptions were used to establish the 1986 preliminary budget:

- all authorized staff positions are assumed to be filled during the whole of 1986;
- the efforts made to reduce central and overhead costs should continue;
- Commissions and Working Groups will meet in 1986 before the Central Committee meeting of January 1987;
- salary costs are calculated on the basis of actual salaries paid in October 1984, increased by 4% inflation and by another 4% for step increases, on the assumption there will be no staff departures in 1985 and 1986;

- travel costs are calculated on the basis of 1984 actuals, increased by 4% for inflation;
- all other expenses are calculated on the basis of 1985 budget figures, increased by 4% for inflation;
- 1% of gross salaries is added to the present social charges to cover the increased cost of health insurance;
- the exchange rates to be taken into account when estimating income are, on the advice of the Investment Advisory Group, Sfr. 2.- to one US$, and Sfr. 0.80 to one DM;
- on the basis of provisional 1984 results and assuming the 1985 budget targets are met, fund balances available at the beginning of 1986 are those anticipated in the budget at the end of 1985.

The preliminary budget prepared with the above assumptions shows a global operating deficit of Sfr. 5,702,755. Of this amount, Sfr. 4,491,043 can be covered by existing fund balances (over and above the minimum fund balance requirements). The remaining amount of Sfr. 1,311,711 cannot be covered unless extra income over and above the present forecast income can be raised.

Of the income shortfall, Sfr. 658,406 is related to undesignated income dependent sub-units and services. The rest is incurred by sub-units that have not been dependent on undesignated income up to now and that anticipate the exhaustion of their own fund balance during 1986. And yet, the above preliminary figures are obtained in spite of the fact that the undesignated income distribution made for the purposes of this budget already exceeds the anticipated undesignated income level by Sfr. 500,000.

The situation seen from a global perspective would appear to be very serious, and indicates that much more work needs to be done on the budget to balance income and expenditures.

The increase of expenditures over the 1985 approved budget is only 6.4%. Although this is more than the Swiss inflation rate (4%), and therefore does include provision for more programme than in 1985, the size of the overall deficit (14% of budgeted expenses) indicates that the balancing of the budget is not only a financial issue related to the sole 1986 budget. Indeed it does not seem reasonable to expect that this rebalancing will be achieved unless decisions on programme priorities and possibly even operating structures are also seriously considered.

3.3 Recommendations

After reviewing the preliminary budget figures, the Finance Sub-committee recommends that the following comments and conditions be taken into account by the General Secretary in the preparation of the 1986 budget that is to be presented to the Executive Committee in Buenos Aires:

- the undesignated income allocations required in 1986 must not exceed Sfr. 6,600,000 unless it can be demonstrated that more undesignated income will be received;
- an amount of Sfr. 300,000 must be set aside for the Seventh Assembly Reserve;
- in order to achieve this, it may be necessary to postpone some programmes and/or the filling of some staff vacancies. If this were to be the case, the General Secretary is asked to propose several options to the Executive Committee for its consideration.

As far as designated income is concerned, the General Secretary is asked to instruct sub-units:

- that they will not be authorized to draw on their minimum fund balances, except within the policies that have been established by the Executive Committee in the past;
- that they will not be authorized to draw more than one third of their available fund balances to cover ongoing programme in 1986 unless they can indicate how those programme items will be funded in subsequent years;
- that they will be authorized to draw more than one third of their available fund balances only if it is to cover non-recurring parts of their programmes that will terminate during 1986;
- that, beyond those limits, if sub-units wish to present a deficit budget on the basis of indications from donors that they will be able to provide more income, they will be required to present evidence that they have received written pledges corresponding to that new income.

In order to present a balanced 1986 budget to the Executive and Central Committees that respect the above conditions, it may be necessary to envisage changes in the way programmes will have to be implemented and executed and even in the way they have been organized within the structure of the WCC. Here again the General Secretary is asked to bring programmatic and financial options for the consideration of the Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee accepted the above recommendations.

Finally the Finance Sub-committee wishes to report that in conversation with the Moderator and the General Secretary it proposed that at future meetings of the Executive Committee an introduction to the financial situation of the Council be presented during an early session, so as to provide the necessary information on the context in which the members of the Executive Committee will then be working in the Sub-committees.

The Executive Committee endorsed this proposal.

4. International Youth Year (IYY) - Special Funding Progress Report

The Finance Sub-committee received a report on the Central Committee authorization to OICD to seek Sfr. 317,000 to cover the Youth Sub-unit's costs in conjunction with the IYY.

Sfr. 89,661 has been received to date and a further US$ 29,211 has been pledged. Responses to a number of request to donors are awaited and other requests will be made to donors in the course of 1985 and 1986.

5. Alternative Patterns of Support

Acknowledging the need for study to provide background considerations on the long-term request to develop a statement of principle eventually to be included in the WCC Rules that each member church provide a "minimum tangible sign" of its commitment to and membership in the Council, the Sub-committee received a report on alternative support for the programmes of the Council which identified several models. OICD was encouraged to solicit member churches as to further models and regarding their own perceived contributions in the ecumenical fellowship and to the Council per se. Such information was seen to be necessary before criteria and reporting questions can be addressed.

The Sub-committee further received preliminary findings of a study of funding models and patterns by which member churches can contribute to the WCC. OICD was asked to undertake specific dialogue with churches which have not yet established a pattern of annual contribution to help them find ways to do so while continuing work on the broader aspects of the study.

6. Financial Implications of Staff Appointments

The staff appointments proposed by the Staffing and Nominations Sub-committee are all within the 1985 approved budget.

7. Provident and Retirement Fund Boards

The Finance Sub-committee was informed that in line with the provisions of the new Swiss law on occupational pension plans, the Provident and Retirement Funds of the World Council of Churches have now merged into one single fund called the Retirement Fund of the World Council of Churches.

In their meeting of 6 February, 1985, the Boards adopted the Statutes and Rules of the new Fund that are applicable as of 1 January, 1985.

Dr Oscar McCloud was elected President of the Retirement Fund Board.

The Board recommends that in order to comply with one of the stipulations of the new law, the Executive Committee extend the mandates of its three representatives on the Board, i.e. Mr Harry

Ashmall, Dr Marga Bührig and Dr Oscar McCloud until the end of February 1988.

The Executive Committee accepted this recommendation.

The Executive Committee received the report of the Finance Sub-committee and accepted its recommendations.

12. DECISION-MAKING ON PRIORITIES AND RESOURCES

The General Secretary referred to the discussion in Central Committee in July 1984 and asked the Executive Committee for clarification of the nature of the instrument required for the setting of priorities. He had already asked sub-units to prepare their own list of priorities with a timetable and, on the recommendation of the Finance Sub-committee, the Executive had asked him to bring an integrated vision of the Council's work, indicating its financial undergirding.

Dr Love spoke of the need for a group which represents the total concern of the Council but is detached from loyalties to particular sub-units, which could help to make decisions about the reallocation of funds and other resources. The Council also needed criteria by which necessary changes in programmes could be made. At the moment it was difficult for new programmes arising from such experiences as Vancouver to be set up. Mr Ashmall suggested that Central Committee could be given a range of options from which to choose what the Council should do at a particular time in its life. There would always be a certain tension but an ongoing process of discussion, review and prioritizing would be helpful. Dr Wilson said it was important to take into account experiences of member churches in grappling with issues already raised by the WCC and to know if they were ready to move on to new programmes.

13. FUTURE MEETINGS

Mr Bena-Silu spoke of the warm invitation already extended by the Kimbanguist Church for the Executive Committee to meet in Zaire. The other member churches in Zaire would be associated with this invitation. The Kimbanguist Church would be responsible for the hospitality and travel within Zaire of all participants. He hoped members would be willing to stay for two or three days after the meeting in order to visit churches in the area. The Executive Committee gratefully accepted the invitation to meet in Kinshasa, Zaire, in March 1986.

On a motion by Dr McCloud, it was agreed to ask the General Secretary to propose to the Executive Committee in July some procedures for receiving and accepting invitations from member churches.

The following dates for meetings of the Executive Committee (inclusive of day of arrival and departure), which had been agreed in July 1984 were noted:

1985	24-27 July, in Buenos Aires, Argentina
1986	9-15 March, in Kinshasa, Zaire
	14-20 September, in Geneva
1987	10-13 January

It was noted that there was a tentative invitation from the member churches in France for the Executive and Central Committees in January 1987 to meet in the south of France. The question of a suitable location was being studied.

The following further dates for meetings of the Executive Committee were agreed:

1987	20-26 September, in Geneva
1988	6-12 March
	7-10 August, in the Federal Republic of Germany

It was agreed to recommend to Central Committee that its meeting in 1988 be from 11 to 22 August and that it accept the invitation to meet in the FRG. It was further agreed that proposals for Executive and Central Committee meetings in 1989 to 1991, and for the Seventh Assembly, be brought to the next meeting of the Executive Committee.

14. CLOSING ACTIONS

The Moderator thanked the General Secretary and all those who had prepared for the meeting, and Executive Committee members for their participation.

The closing act of worship was led by the Moderator.

ATTENDANCE

PRESENT

Presidents:	Dame R. Nita Barrow
	Dr Marga Bührig
	Metropolitan Dr Paulos Mar Gregorios
	Bishop Dr Johannes W. Hempel
	Patriarch Ignatios IV of Antioch and All the East
	Archbishop W.P.K. Makhulu
	Very Rev. Dr Lois Wilson
Officers:	Rev. Dr Heinz Joachim Held (Moderator)
	Metropolitan Chrysostomos of Myra (Vice-Moderator)
	Dr Sylvia Ross Talbot (Vice-Moderator)
	Rev. Dr Emilio Castro (General Secretary)
Members:	Ms Annathaie Abayasekera
	Metropolitan Antonie of Transsylvania
	Mr Harry A. Ashmall
	Archbishop Athanasios of Beni Souef
	Mr Bena-Silu
	Ms Joyce Kaddu
	Archbishop Kirill of Viborg
	Dr Janice Love
	Rev. Dr J. Oscar McCloud
	Rev. Dr S.A.E. Nababan
	Rev. Meinrad Piske
	Ms Jean Skuse
	Rev. Gunnar Stalsett
	Dr Aaron Tolen
	Bishop Karoly Toth
Observers:	Protopresbyter Vitaly Borovoy
	Fr George Tsetsis
Staff:	Rev. Dr Samuel Amirtham
	Dr Reginald Amonoo-Lartsen
	Rev. S. Wesley Ariarajah
	Ms Marie B. Assaad
	Dr Anwar M. Barkat
	Rev. Dr Ulrich Becker
	Ms Midge Béguin-Austin
	Rev. Ans van der Bent
	Rev. Jacques Blanc
	Rev. Coen Boerma
	Rev. Joan Campbell
	Ms Gwen Cashmore
	Mr Patrick Coïdan
	Mr Trevor Davies
	Rev. Dr Günther Gassmann
	Prof. Dr Adriaan Geense
	Rev. Dr David Gosling
	Mr Victor Hsu
	Mr Ninan Koshy
	Rev. William Perkins
	Mr Hugh Pettingell

Staff (continued):	Prof. Todor Sabev
	Rev. Carlos Sintado
	Rev. Dr Eugene Stockwell
	Fr George Tsetsis
	Mr Archibald Turnbull
	Rev. Bärbel von Wartenberg-Potter
	Mr Erich Weingärtner
Interpreters:	Ms Ilse Friedeberg
	Ms Roswitha Ginglas-Poulet
	Mr Mstislav Voskresenski
Minute writer:	Ms Auriol Burrows
Administration:	Ms Anne Berger-Williamson
	Ms Rosemary Green

APOLOGIES

Honorary President:	Rev. Dr W.A. Visser 't Hooft
Member:	Rev. Puafitu Faa'alo

APPENDIX II

MEMBERSHIP OF SUB-COMMITTEES

Sub-committee on Programme

Metropolitan Chrysostomos (Moderator)
Dr Marga Bührig
Metropolitan Dr Paulos Mar Gregorios
Bishop Dr Johannes W. Hempel
Patriarch Ignatios IV
Ms Joyce Kaddu
Dr Janice Love
Rev. Dr S.A.E. Nababan
Rev. Meinrad Piske
Bishop Karoly Toth

Sub-committee on Finance

Rev. Dr J. Oscar McCloud (Moderator)
Metropolitan Antonie
Mr Harry A. Ashmall
Mr Bena-Silu
Archbishop W.P.K. Makhulu
Ms Jean Skuse
Rev. Gunnar Stalsett
Very Rev. Dr Lois Wilson

Sub-committee on Staffing and Nominations

Dr Sylvia Talbot (Moderator)
Ms Annathaie Abayasekera
Archbishop Athanasios
Dame R. Nita Barrow
Rev. Puafitu Faa'alo (not present)
Archbishop Kirill
Dr Aaron Tolen

APPENDIX III

LETTER TO THE EVANGELICAL CHURCH IN NEW CALEDONIA

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The World Council of Churches Executive Committee, meeting in Geneva 4-8 February 1985, received information and reviewed the latest developments regarding the situation in New Caledonia. We were deeply moved by the plight of the Kanak people and uplifted by the faith and witness of our WCC member church, the Eglise Evangélique en Nouvelle Calédonie et aux Iles Loyauté.

It is not the first time that the WCC is concerned with your struggle. In 1979, the WCC Central Committee, meeting on another island nation, Jamaica, and in 1983, the VIth Assembly, meeting in Vancouver, on the shores of the Pacific Ocean, called the attention of member churches to the aspirations of the Melanesian people of New Caledonia for self-determination and independence. These actions have resulted from a close relationship with your church, as well as with the Pacific Conference of Churches and the French Protestant Federation.

We share your pain in mourning those who have given their lives for a brighter future. We pray for those who have been wounded or imprisoned. We pray also for those who cannot or will not see the justice in the aspiration of your people. Many WCC member churches have in recent times experienced struggles similar to yours, even suffering violent opposition. They convey to you their solidarity and their assurance that colonialism will not prevail. Christ is the source of our common hope.

We have become aware of your special ministry in nurturing the dignity and inner strength of the Kanak people throughout their history of suffering. We are aware also of your untiring efforts in dialogue with those who have made the Kanak people a minority in their own lands and those who strenuously oppose their aspirations for independence. We pledge to you our respect, our solidarity and our commitment to stand by you as you seek to be faithful to the role God has assigned to you.

The WCC VIth Assembly affirmed with the Prophet Isaiah that peace is the effect of righteousness. Our faith in Jesus Christ gives us the assurance that God's justice will prevail over the powers of death.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Life of the World, be with you always.

Heinz Joachim Held — Moderator

Emilio Castro — General Secretary

On behalf of the WCC Executive Committee

APPENDIX IV

MEMBERSHIP OF REGIONAL RESOURCE SHARING GROUP IN AFRICA

Rev. Dr Grégoire Ambadiang, Presbyterian Church of Cameroon, Cameroon

Ms K. Basunguku, Kimbanguist Church, Zaire

Mr M.B. Badan, Church of Christ the King, Central African Republic

Ato Getaneh Bogale, Ethiopian Orthodox Church, Ethiopia

Ms Theresa Chimombe, Methodist Church, Zimbabwe

Ms Imogene Collins, Liberian Baptist Convention, Liberia

Dr K. Kinyanjui, Presbyterian Church of East Africa, Kenya

Mr J. Kudadjie, Church of the Province of West Africa, Ghana

Mr Antonia Pedro Malungu, Evangelical Congregational Church in Angola, Angola

Fr Carlos Matsinhe, Church of the Province of Southern Africa, Mozambique

Ms Véronique Mbemba, Evangelical Church of the Congo, Congo

Ms Mary Mxandana, Methodist Church of Southern Africa, South Africa

Dr Bokuna M.O. Nkiere, Church of Christ in Zaire - Presbyterian Community, Zaire

Mr M. Rafam'Andrianjafy, Malagasy Lutheran Church, Madagascar

Rev. Michel Twagirayesu, Presbyterian Church of Rwanda, Rwanda

Dr J.M. Urasa, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania, Tanzania

Rev. E. Yando, Protestant Methodist Church in Ivory Coast, Ivory Coast

Representative of AACC: Ms Louise Tappa

MEMBERSHIP OF REGIONAL RESOURCE SHARING GROUP IN LATIN AMERICA

Rev. Ramón Castillo, Lutheran Church, Venezuela

Mr Benjamin Cortés, Church of Christ, Nicaragua

Mr Mario Dabala, Waldensian Evangelical Church of the River Plate, Uruguay

Rev. Zwinglio Dias, United Presbyterian Church of Brazil, Brazil

Ms Ana de García, Lutheran Diocese of Costa Rica and Panama, Costa Rica

Rev. Marco García, Primitive Methodist Church, Guatemala

Rt Rev. Ulises Hernández, Methodist Church of Mexico, Mexico

RSS Group, L.Am. - 2

Rev. Ana Maria Koch, Evangelical Church of Lutheran Confession in Brazil, Brazil

Rev. Washington Padilla, Evangelical Methodist Church in Ecuador, Ecuador

Ms Marta Palma, Mission Pentecostal Church, Chile

Rev. R. Suárez Ramos, Baptist Church in Cuba, Cuba

Mr Enilson Rocha Souza, Evangelical Pentecostal Church "Brazil for Christ", Brazil

Prof. Carlos Sabanes, Evangelical Methodist Church of Argentina, Argentina

Mr Armando Luzo Salázar, Methodist Church of Peru, Peru

Ms Inés P. de Sarli, Church of the Disciples of Christ, Argentina

Rev. Tomás Téllez, Baptist Convention of Nicaragua, Nicaragua

Representative of CLAI: Rev. Manuel J. Poblete

To be nominated: one Orthodox representative

MEMBERSHIP OF REGIONAL RESOURCE SHARING GROUP IN EUROPE

A. Nominated by the World Council of Churches

Rev. Dr Trond Bakkevig, Council on Foreign Relations of the Church of Norway

Ms Jenny Borden, Christian Aid, UK

Metropolitan Jovan of Zagreb and Ljubljana, Serbian Orthodox Church

Rev. Henk Koetsier, Reformed Churches in the Netherlands

Archimandrite Nifon Mihaita, Romanian Orthodox Church

Ms Birgitta Rantakari, Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland

B. Nominated jointly by WCC and CEC

Ms Johanna Hanhart, Ecumenical Forum of European Christian Women

Mr Heinz Hunke, International Documentation and Communication Centre

Rev. Laszlo Pall, Ecumenical Youth Council in Europe

C. Nominated by the Conference of European Churches

Rev. Enrique Capo, Spanish Committee for Cooperation among Churches

Ms Anita Häussermann, Kirchen helfen Kirchen, FRG

RSS Group, Europe - 3

Rector Wilhelm Nausner, Ecumenical Council of Churches in Austria

Dr Antonios K. Papantoniou, ICA and Foreign Relations Committee of the Church of Greece

Provost Eberhard Schröder, Gustav-Adolfwerk in the GDR

Rev. Jan Szarek, Polish Ecumenical Council